

Draft Minutes of Emergency IRDC Meeting

(FB 212; 27.1.2012)

Members present: Drs. M. Banerjee (MTH); R. Gupta (MSP); M. Chakraborty (CSE); A. K. Sharma (HSS); S. N. Tripathi (CE); S. Panda (DORD nominee); A. Kushari (Special Invitee); S. Banerjee (PHY); K. Muralidhar (special invitee); K. Subramaniam (BSBE); S. N. Singh (EE); B. V. Phani (SIIC); J. Rmakumar (DES); R. Vijaya (CELT); P. Venkitnarayanan (ME); A. K. Chaturvedi (DORD); S. Verma (CHM)

Convener welcomed members to the first IRDC meeting of 2012. Dean, Research & Development, was requested to give a brief overview of the Research Complex at IIT Kanpur and the urgency for this meeting. He described recent developments related to incorporation of Research Complex in the Masterplan of IIT Kanpur and an urgent need to prepare a proposal for sending to the administration, for necessary action and forward movement. A complex with 30,000 sq. m. of floor space has been approved in the Masterplan to propel the research ecosystem of IIT Kanpur and to elevate the capacity to execute large projects. It was pointed out that the Research Complex has been under discussion for more than two years and inputs from departments are already available in IRDC minutes and related documents. Further inputs from departments, if any, can be passed to the Convener, IRDC.

IRDC members were asked to opine upon its planning, execution and other details. A copy of the Masterplan layout was shown to the members, which has identified location of Research Complex. Convener IRDC presented background of the proposed complex, possible organizational details and one example of such complex in United Kingdom.

Members were generally enthusiastic about the concept of Research Park and its potential to serve the community of researchers at IIT Kanpur. A number of views were presented by the members. Some of the comments were:

1. Concerned members interested in getting input from departmental colleagues will seek the same and inform Convener, IRDC, directly.
2. Identification of broad themes is important, before conceptualizing overall goal and design of the building.
3. Research complex should initiate large scale research activities, with big-ticket projects.
4. Special research needs should be discussed before finalizing plans; need for modular spaces that could be retro-fitted for broad needs of investigators/special projects; dynamic spaces with limited occupancy duration.

5. Trained personnel requirement.

6. Major facilities/infrastructure acquired through sponsored projects should continue to operate till they are useful for research, even if the projects from which they were acquired have been completed.

An IRDC sub-group consisting of Drs. A. Kushari, S. Panda, R. Gupta, J. Ramkumar, S. Verma, A. K. Chaturvedi, was constituted to write proposal to be presented to IRDC in the next meeting.

Meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

Prepared by:
A. Kushari

Forwarded by:
A. K. Chaturvedi
Dean R&D